

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 102259
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 H-02 SSM-05
PA-02 SIG-03 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 SP-02
SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 MCE-00 OMB-01 /107 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WBHARRIS:RGH

APPROVED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND

PA/PRS - MR. CARTER

H - MR. FLATEN

SSM - MR. MC ANDREW

NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER

NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM

NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY

NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH

-----005190 220053Z /14

O 212204Z APR 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION SINAI

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USNATO

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 102259

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USCINCEUR
DOD
JCS
CIA
USICA
NSC
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW POUCH

UNCLAS STATE 102259

CINCEUR FOR POLAD, TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - APRIL 21

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE
EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR APRIL 21, 1978.
FYI ONLY, SPOKESMAN TODAY WAS THOMAS RESTON.

MR. RESTON: ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN WILL VISIT
WASHINGTON APRIL 26 AND 27 FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH SECRETARY
VANCE ON MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORTS. THIS VISIT, WHICH
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 102259

HAD BEEN ORIGINALLY ENVISAGED FOR AN EARLIER TIME, WAS
DELAYED UNTIL APRIL 26-27 DUE TO SCHEDULING DIFFICULTIES;
AND THIS MEETING IS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF OUR CONTINUING
CONSULTATIONS WITH THE PARTIES.

AMBASSADOR ATHERTON WILL BE RETURNING TO WASHINGTON FROM
CAIRO SINCE IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THE NEED FOR A STOP IN
ISRAEL HAS BEEN OVERTAKEN BY THE TALKS WHICH ARE TO TAKE
PLACE IN WASHINGTON WITH THE ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER.

Q. DOES HE ALSO PLAN TO MEET THE PRESIDENT?

A. I DON'T KNOW. YOU WOULD HAVE TO ASK THE WHITE HOUSE.

Q. IS THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN RELATE ON BEGIN COMING
HERE? ANYTHING NEW ON THAT?

A. NO, I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING NEW FOR YOU ON THAT, AT
ALL.

Q. WILL DAYAN GO RIGHT BACK TO ISRAEL FROM WASHINGTON?

A. THAT IS MY UNDERSTANDING, BUT I AM REALLY NOT AWARE OF HIS PRECISE SCHEDULE. I THINK YOU SHOULD ASK THE ISRAELI EMBASSY.

Q. ARE THERE TWO DAYS OF TALKS, THEN, OR IS HE JUST COMING IN ONE DAY AND THE TALKS THE NEXT?

A. I AM NOT SURE ABOUT THAT. I DON'T KNOW THE LENGTH OF THE TALKS. I JUST HAVE THE TWO DATES FOR YOU. THE SCHEDULE IS NOT FIRMED UP YET. BUT HE WILL BE HERE THOSE TWO DAYS.

Q. IS THE ADMINISTRATION'S PLANE PACKAGE GOING UP TO THE HILL ON THE 26TH?

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 102259

A. YES.

Q. AND IT'S 30 DAYS FROM THAT DATE, THAT THE CONGRESS HAS TO ACT. IS THAT CORRECT?

A. I BELIEVE THAT IS CORRECT. IF I AM INCORRECT ABOUT THAT I WILL POST SOMETHING DIFFERENT.

Q. IS THAT WORKING DAYS, OR CALENDAR DAYS?

A. I WILL FIND OUT IF IT IS WORKING DAYS OR CALENDAR DAYS.

Q. IS IT TRUE THAT SENATOR BYRD ASKED THE ADMINISTRATION TO WITHHOLD SENDING UP THE LETTER UNTIL AFTER MAY 15?

A. I DON'T KNOW.

Q. WILL MR. ATHERTON RETURN IN TIME TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DISCUSSIONS WITH MR. DAYAN?

A. YES, HE WILL.

Q. WOULD HIS VISIT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE PACKAGE PROPOSED TO THE ARABS AND ISRAELIS?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING SPECIFIC ON THE AGENDA FOR THE TALKS. I THINK THE FOCUS FOR THE TALKS WILL BE OUR CONTINUING EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT A SOLUTION IN THE MIDDLE EAST. I COULDN'T RULE OUT THAT HE WILL TALK ABOUT AIRPLANES.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 102259

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO ADD TO THE STATEMENT BY SECRETARY STETSON, OF THE AIR FORCE, THAT THE U.S. MAY SELL MORE F-15'S TO SAUDI ARABIA?

A. LET ME SAY WITH REGARD TO THAT STORY THAT THE SAUDI ARABIAN REQUEST IS FOR 60 AIRCRAFT. THE ADMINISTRATION PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE THIS QUANTITY WAS MADE AFTER CAREFUL REVIEW OF ALL THE FACTORS INVOLVED IN THE SALE. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY SAUDI PLANNING TO ACQUIRE ADVANCED AIRCRAFT BEYOND THE 60 F-15'S AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS NO PLAN TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT.

WE RECOGNIZE SAUDI ARABIA'S NEED TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE SELF-DEFENSE FOR ITSELF. THIS SALE AIMS AT HELPING PROVIDE THIS NEEDED SECURITY BUT THERE ARE NO PLANS TO PROVIDE ANYTHING BEYOND THE 60 F-15'S.

Q. YOU SAID THE F-15 IS CONSIDERED THE MOST ADVANCED PLANE INTERNATIONALLY. WHAT WOULD THEY BE ASKING FOR, MORE? B-1, OR WHAT?

A. THEY ARE NOT PLANNING TO ASK FOR ANYMORE AND THERE ARE NO PLANS TO PROVIDE THEM WITH ANY ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT.

Q. OF THE SAME TYPE, DO YOU MEAN?

A. THEY ARE NOT PLANNING TO ACQUIRE ANY ADVANCED AIRCRAFT BEYOND THE 60, F-15'S.

NOW I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO SAY WHETHER THAT MEANS OTHER KINDS OF AIRCRAFT, OTHER THAN F-15'S BUT THERE ARE NO PLANS TO GO BEYOND THAT 60, F-15'S.

Q. WHILE YOU ARE ON THE SUBJECT OF THIS INTERVIEW GIVEN BY THE AIR FORCE SECRETARY, DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 102259

TO SAY ON WHAT THE NATURE OF THE UNITED STATES COMMITMENT TO THE DEFENSE OF IRAN IS?

A. YES. THE U.S.-IRANIAN BILATERAL AGREEMENT OF COOPERATION OF MARCH 5, 1959, SAYS IN ARTICLE 1: "IN CASE OF AGGRESSION AGAINST IRAN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, WILL TAKE SUCH APPROPRIATE ACTION INCLUDING THE USE OF ARMED FORCES, AS MAY BE MUTUALLY AGREED UPON."

WE HAVE A DEEP INTEREST IN THE SECURITY OF THE PERSIAN GULF REGION, INCLUDING IRAN, AND THE OTHER LITERAL STATES. WE HAVE, OVER THE YEAR ASSISTED SOME OF THEM IN DEVELOPING THEIR SELF-DEFENSE CAPABILITIES WHICH SERVE THEIR OWN INTERESTS AND OURS AS WELL.

I THINK THE WORDS OF THE AGREEMENT ARE EXPLICIT.

Q. IS THERE NOT A SIMILAR AGREEMENT WITH SAUDI ARABIA?

A. I JUST DON'T KNOW. I CAN'T PULL THAT OUT OF MY HEAD. I WOULD HAVE TO CHECK THAT FOR YOU.

Q. I WONDER IF YOU WOULD, BECAUSE IT IS RELEVANT TO THE STORY.

A. SURE.

Q. WHEN YOU SAY, "IN CASE OF AGGRESSION AGAINST IRAN," IS THERE ANY GEOGRAPHIC AREA INCLUDED? AGGRESSION UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 102259

FROM WHERE? OR JUST AGGRESSION IN GENERAL?

A. I BELIEVE IT IS GENERALLY, BUT I AM NOT FAMILIAR ENOUGH WITH THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT OF COOPERATION TO ANSWER YOU PRECISELY.

Q. GENERAL MORDACHAI GUR, THE JUST-RETIRED CHIEF OF THE ISRAELI ARMED FORCES, IN AN INTERVIEW QUOTED THIS MORNING BY REUTERS, IN THE DAVAR NEWSPAPER IN ISRAEL, IS QUOTED AS SAYING THE ISRAELIS USED CBU'S TWO YEARS AGO AGAINST GUERRILLA TARGETS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON, AND HE IS FURTHER QUOTED AS SAYING, "I AM PERSONALLY CONVINCED WE DID NOT GO BEYOND THE UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THEIR USE," IN USING THESE CBU'S IN LEBANON. I TAKE IT THAT LAST COMMENT PROBABLY REFERS TO THE MORE RECENT INCIDENT. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON GENERAL GUR'S STATEMENT, OR ON THIS WHOLE CBU AFFAIR?

A. I THINK I DID SEE A PRESS REPORT THIS MORNING, OR IT WAS YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, OF A STATEMENT MR. WEIZMAN, THE DEFENSE MINISTER, HAD MADE ABOUT THE USE OF THIS PARTICULAR WEAPONS SYSTEM. BUT LET ME SAY THAT THE

ISRAELIS HAVE REAFFIRMED THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF CLUSTER BOMB UNITS. WE WILL BE REPORTING ON THIS TO THE CONGRESS UNDER THE CASE ACT. CONTACTS WITH THE ISRAELIS ARE CONTINUING WITH A VIEW TO ASSURING THAT RESTRICTIONS WILL BE EFFECTIVE IN THE FUTURE.

Q. DID YOU EVER CONFIRM THAT YOU ARE SEEKING TIGHTER RESTRICTIONS THAN HAVE EXISTED UNTIL NOW?

A. NO, I DON'T BELIEVE SO.

Q. CAN YOU?

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 08 STATE 102259

A. I JUST DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT FOR YOU. CHRISTOPHER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION, PRESS SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE102259
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WBHARRIS:RGH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780171-0995
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780429/aaaaaynt.tel
Line Count: 300
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e42554a9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2885241
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - APRIL 21
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN
To: AMMAN BEIRUT MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e42554a9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014